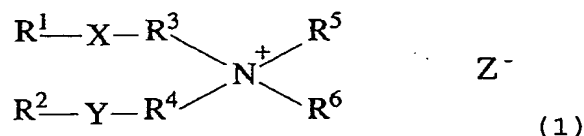


# CLAIMS

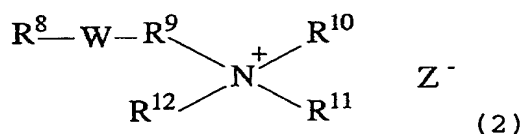
1. A softener composition comprising:

(a) a quaternary ammonium compound represented by the formula (1):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently represent a C<sub>12-22</sub> alkyl or alkenyl group, X and Y are independently -COO-, -CONR<sup>7</sup>-, -OCO- or -NR<sup>7</sup>CO-, provided that at least one of X and Y is -COO- or -OCO-, R<sup>7</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently represent a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkylene group, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> represent a C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group or R<sup>1</sup>-X-R<sup>3</sup>- and Z<sup>-</sup> is an anionic group,

(b) a quaternary ammonium compound represented by the formula (2):

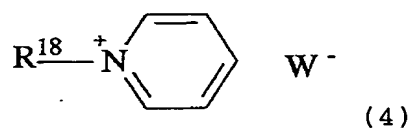
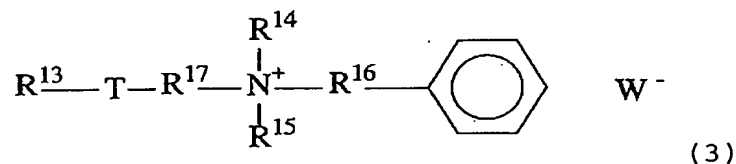


wherein R<sup>8</sup> represents a C<sub>12-22</sub> alkyl or alkenyl group, W is a group selected from -COO-, -CONR<sup>7</sup>-, -OCO- and -NR<sup>7</sup>CO-, R<sup>7</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, preferably a hydrogen atom, R<sup>9</sup> represents a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkylene group, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> represent a C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, R<sup>12</sup> represents a C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl group or -R<sup>26</sup>-OH, R<sup>26</sup> is a C<sub>1-5</sub> alkylene group and Z<sup>-</sup>

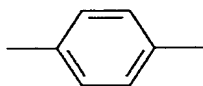
is an anionic group, and

a compound selected from the following component (c) or (d):

(c) 0.1 to 15 % by weight of a compound represented by formula (3) and/or formula (4):

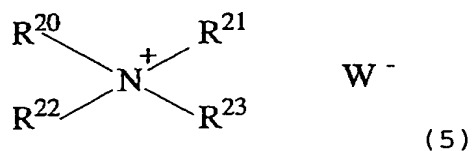


wherein  $\text{R}^{13}$  and  $\text{R}^{18}$  independently represent a  $\text{C}_{5-19}$  alkyl or alkenyl group,  $\text{R}^{14}$  and  $\text{R}^{15}$  independently represent a  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, and T is  $-\text{COO}-$ ,  $-\text{OCO}-$ ,  $-\text{CONH}-$ ,  $-\text{NHCO}-$ ,



or a linkage,  $\text{R}^{16}$  represents a  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkylene group,  $\text{R}^{17}$  represents a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkylene group or  $-(\text{O}-\text{R}^{19})_n-$ ,  $\text{R}^{19}$  is ethylene group or propylene group and n is a number of 1 to 10 and  $\text{W}^{-}$  is an anionic group, and

(d) 0.01 to 15 % by weight of a compound represented by formula (5):



wherein 2 or 3 groups out of  $\text{R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{R}^{21}$ ,  $\text{R}^{22}$  and  $\text{R}^{23}$  represent a  $\text{C}_{8-12}$  alkyl group, the remainder of them represent a  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkyl group,

a C<sub>1-3</sub> hydroxyalkyl group or a C<sub>7-15</sub> arylalkyl group and Z<sup>-</sup> is an anionic group.

2. The softener composition according to claim 1, which further comprises (e) a nonionic surfactant.

3. The softener composition according to claim 1 or 2, which further comprises 0.1 to 5 % by weight of (f) a C<sub>8-22</sub> fatty acid or a salt thereof.

SUB  
C4

ADD  
C5

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